

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 19-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 12 is amended. Claims 1-11 and 13-16 have been withdrawn from consideration. However, upon allowance of claim 12, dependent claims 13-16 should be rejoined and allowed.

Claim 12 is amended to obviate the objection to the -specification and claims. The amendment to claim 12 also obviates the rejection of claims 12 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 12 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 2001-18235 to Tanaka et al. (hereinafter "Tanaka") in view of USP 2,756,460 to Heintz JP 5-138656 (hereinafter "JP 656") and USP 5,066,209 to Schmaderer et al.

The Office Action recognizes that JP '235 does not disclose a second vent means comprised of fine slit like apertures, the second vent means being isolated from the first vent means and in communication with the atmosphere, and the aperture of the second vent means being arranged near (adjacent) a junction of the ridges of the tire tread mold.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office Action's assertion that Schmaderer provides the deficiencies of JP '235.

Claim 12 provides a vulcanizing mold for pneumatic tires, which is useful for effectively discharging air that tends to stagnate in the region of the mold cavity adjacent the ridges, thus degrading product quality.

Neither Heintz JP '656 nor Schmaderer recognize the problem to be solved by the invention. Specifically, the tendency of air stagnation in the region of the mold cavity adjacent to the ridges. Thus, Applicant respectfully traverses the Office Action's assertion that one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to combine the references. Instead,

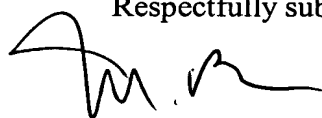
Applicant asserts that the combination of the references can only be made by using impermissible hindsight reasoning.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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